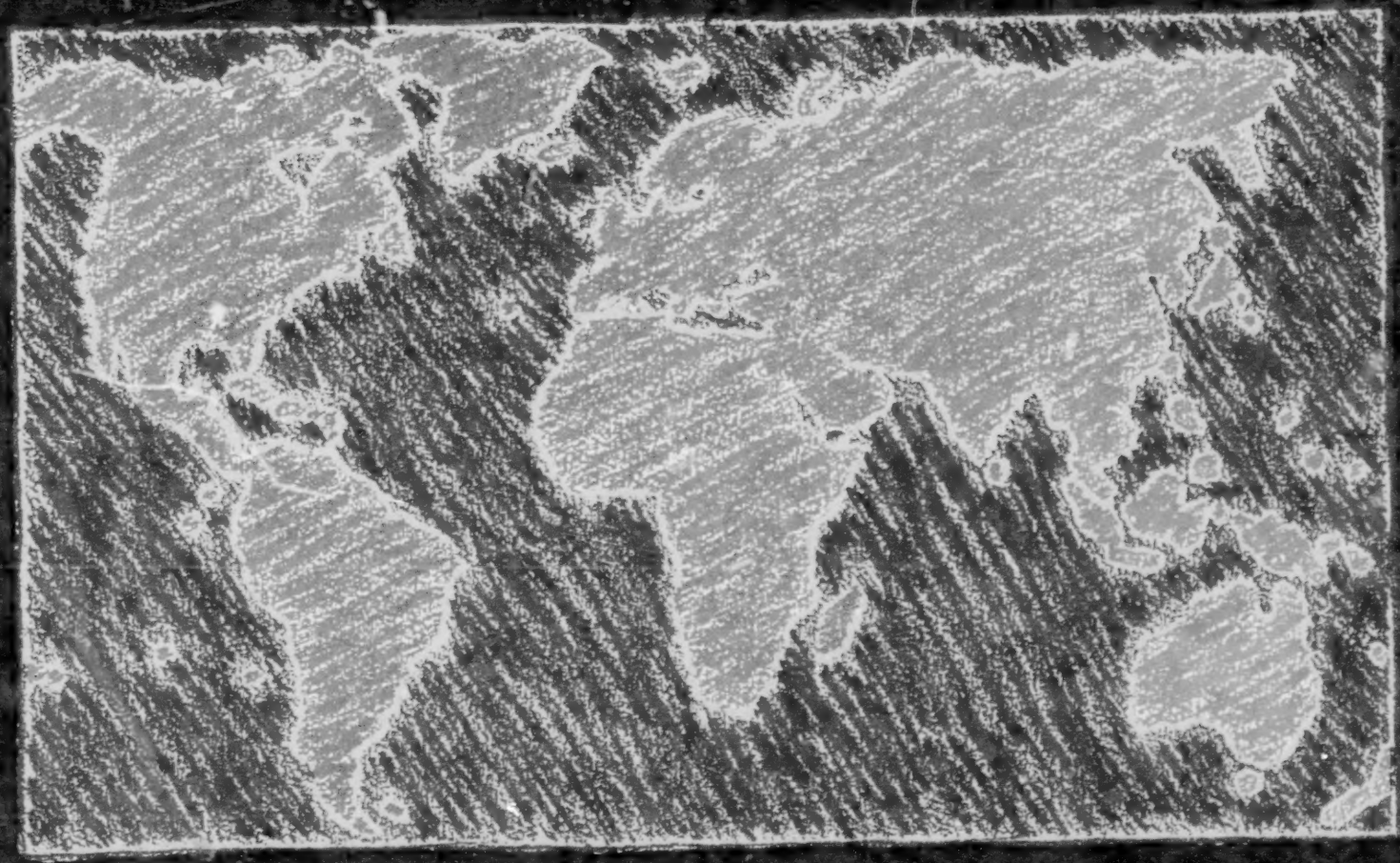
DECOLONIZATION

THE TASK AHEAD



PROFILES OF TRUST AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

UNITED NATIONS

DECOLONIZATION
THE TASK AHEAD

PROFILES OF 18 TRUST AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

READEX
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UNITED NATIONS

LIST OF MAPS

WORLD MAP
Map No. 3257, Rev. 3
United Nations, November 1990

AMERICAN SAMOA
Map No. 2971, Rev. 1
United Nations, March 1985

ANGUILLA
Map No. 3306
United Nations, October 1984

BERMUDA
Map No. 1423, Rev. 1
United Nations, March 1978

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
Map No. 2900, Rev. 2
United Nations, April 1985

CAYMAN ISLANDS
Map No. 2945
United Nations, July 1977

EAST TIMOR
Map No. 1391, Rev. 1
United Nations, August 1976

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)
Map No. 3168
United Nations, April 1982

GIBRALTAR
Map No. 2548, Rev. 1
United Nations, August 1981

GUAM
Map No. 2974, Rev. 1
United Nations, December 1982

MONTSERRAT
Map No. 2871, Rev. 2
United Nations, October 1982

NEW CALEDONIA
Map No. 3428
United Nations, February 1987

PITCAIRN
Map No. 3312
United Nations, January 1985

ST. HELENA
Map No. 2975, Rev. 1
United Nations, February 1985

TOKELAU
Map No. 2899, Rev. 3
United Nations, December 1982

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Map No. 2995, Rev. 3
United Nations, July 1985

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
Map No. 2976, Rev. 1
United Nations, April 1985

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
Map No. 2946, Rev. 1
United Nations, March 1985

WESTERN SAHARA
Map No. 3650
United Nations, August 1991

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CORRIGENDUM

1 Several maps in this booklet show the boundary of the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which comprised four entities: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau. This is because the maps were prepared before trusteeship agreements relating to three of the four entities were terminated, leaving Palau the sole area under the International Trusteeship System.

2 The following footnotes refer to the locator map facing page 3.

[c] On 6 April 1979, and in subsequent communications, Portugal informed the Secretary-General that conditions prevailing in East Timor had prevented it from assuming its responsibilities for the administration of the Territory.

[b] By resolution 45/21 of 20 November 1990, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the question of Western Sahara was a question of decolonization, which remained to be completed by the people of Western Sahara. It expressed its conviction that the continuation of direct dialogue between the parties to the conflict could contribute to the completion of the joint good offices process aimed at promoting a just and definitive solution of the question of Western Sahara by the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Secretary-General.

UNITED KINGDOM
FRANCE
PORTUGAL
UNITED STATES
Bermuda
Gibraltar
Turks and Caicos Is.
British Virgin Is.
U.S. Virgin Is.
Anguilla
Cayman Is.
Montserrat
Western Sahara[b]
Trust Territory of the Pacific Is.
Guam
Tokelau
St. Helena
Pitcairn
East Timor[a]
New Caledonia
American Samoa
Falkland Is. (Is. Malvinas)
NEW ZEALAND
Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories
Administering Powers

Chapters XII and XIII of the Charter, through individual agreements between the United Nations and the administering Member States, which agreed to promote the progressive development of the Territories' inhabitants towards self-government or independence in accordance with Charter objectives.

The United Nations Charter considerably expanded the League's system for supervising Mandated Territories. It not only called for annual reports from Administering Authorities on conditions in the Territories but also provided that missions might visit the Territories at times agreed upon with the Administering Authorities, and empowered the Trusteeship Council to accept petitions and hear petitioners.

The Charter made special provision for a Trust Territory to be designated a "strategic" area. In such cases, responsibility to approve the terms of trusteeship agreements and their alteration or amendment is entrusted to the Security Council. The only Territory to be designated a strategic area is the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Trusteeship Agreement for three of its four entities was terminated in December 1990 by the Security Council, leaving Palau the sole area under the International Trusteeship System.

The membership of the Trusteeship Council at present consists of China, France, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION

Chapter XI of the Charter (Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories) sets out the obligations of administering Powers for the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those States recognize that the interests of the inhabitants of the Territories are paramount, and accept as a sacred trust the obligation to promote to the utmost their well-being. Under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, they transmit to the Secretary-General information on economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are responsible.

To accelerate the process of decolonization, the General Assembly in 1960 adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Declaration on decolonization) which proclaims that the subjection of people to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights. It affirms that all peoples have the right to self-determination.

The Declaration calls for immediate steps to be taken to transfer all powers to peoples in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories or all other Territories that have not yet attained independence, in accordance with their freely expressed will and desire.

In 1961, the General Assembly established the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee on decolonization) as the main United Nations body concerned with the progress of all people under colonial rule towards self-determination and independence.

The Committee:

- studies information submitted under Article 73 *e*,
- regularly examines the application of the Declaration

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Decolonization under United Nations guidance has now entered the final phase of completion. The General Assembly has proclaimed the years 1990 to 2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Emphasis is on acceleration of the decolonization process in order to usher into the twenty-first century a world free from colonialism.

The decolonization of many nations since the end of the Second World War has been termed the greatest political transition in human history, and one which, perhaps more than anything else, has made possible the present international community of States with its almost universal membership.

The United Nations continues to be deeply involved in the decolonization process. Through the work of the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on decolonization, the Organization follows the progress towards self-determination and independence of the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and the last Trust Territory of the International Trusteeship System.

United Nations efforts in decolonization, given impetus over the years by the aspirations and struggles of the dependent peoples themselves, derive from the assertion in the Charter of the United Nations of the principle of "equal rights and self-determination of peoples".

Three separate chapters in the Charter—Chapter XI (Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories), Chapter XII (International Trusteeship System) and Chapter XIII (The Trusteeship Council)—are devoted to dependent Territories. The Charter provides for two categories of such Territories—Trust Territories and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

The Organization played its earliest decolonization role in taking over supervision of the administration of the Mandates of its predecessor, the League of Nations, and assumed the same task for Territories detached from States after the Second World War.

Eventually 11 Trust Territories were placed under the International Trusteeship System provided for in

and makes recommendations to facilitate its implementation,

- dispatches missions to Territories to obtain first-hand information,
- calls the attention of the Security Council to colonial situations it deems a threat to international peace and security,
- receives communications and hears individuals or representatives of organizations and Governments,
- makes recommendations on dissemination of information on decolonization with a view to mobilizing public opinion in support of the cause,
- reviews foreign economic and other interests operating in Territories, and military activities and arrangements which may be impeding the process towards complete decolonization,
- examines the assistance provided to the people of the Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, and
- examines the items on its agenda in plenary meetings or assigns them to one of the two sub-committees—the Sub-Committee on Small Territories and the Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance.

The work of the Special Committee is reviewed by the General Assembly at its plenary meetings and through its Fourth Committee. The Fourth Committee's recommendations serve as a basis for Assembly decisions on decolonization.

The Special Committee consists of 25 Member States: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

It currently follows the application of the Declaration to 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories—American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, East Timor, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara—as well as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Committee annually reviews the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

The Special Committee has consistently reiterated the view that factors such as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should not prevent the peoples of the remaining Territories from exercising their right to self-determination, as it is ultimately for those peoples themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration, as well as other relevant United Nations resolutions. In this connection, the Committee has also reaffirmed the importance of fostering an awareness among the peoples of those Territories of all the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination.

Reiterating that it is the administering Powers' responsibility to create conditions in the Territories to enable their peoples to exercise freely that right, the Committee has